GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF ARID ZONES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme for the development of arid zones in the country;

(b) if so, the States where these zones are located; and

(c) the steps taken for the development of agriculture in those zones particularly in Karnataka?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Desert Development Programme (DDP), the major scheme exclusively for thedevelopment of desert districts (arid zones) in the country, has been in operation since 1977-78.

(b): The hot Arid Zones are located in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

(c): Several ongoing programmes, such as National Watershed Development Project forRainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Watershed Development in Catchments of River Valley Projectsand Flood Prone Area (RVP & FPR) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) of Ministry of Rural Development are in operation for the development of agriculture on watershed basis in these zones.

In addition the following Externally Aided Projects, contributing to the development ofagriculture in these zones, are under implementation in Karnataka:

(i) World Bank aided Karnataka Watershed Development Project

(ii) DFID aided Watershed Development Project and

(iii) Danida assisted Comprehensive Watershed Development Project.